

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016
Carnegie Center for Art and History
201 East Spring St.
New Albany, IN 47150**

Nancy Stewart, Chair

Members present: Kathy Anderson, Gil Cárdenas, Libby Chiu, Ruth Ann Cowling, Susan Hardwick, Linda Levell, Jennifer Perry, Allen Platt, Sherry Stark, Nancy Stewart

Members via teleconference: Jeff Kirk, Yolanda Stemer, Trevor Yager

Members absent: Al Rent, Micah Smith

Arts Commission staff present: Sarah Fronczek, Becca Hopson, Miah Michaelsen, Stephanie Pfendler, Lewis Ricci, Paige Sharp, Adrian Starnes, Rex Van Zant

Guests: Scott Wylie (RAP Chair), Sue Lamborn (Columbus Area Arts Council)

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** Commission Chair, Nancy Stewart, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- 2. Consent Agenda.** Ms. Stewart called to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Allen Platt motioned to approve. Commissioner Susan Hardwick seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed by unanimous consensus.
- 3. Chair and Executive Committee Report.**
 - a. Financials**
 - i. FY2016 YTD, February.** Arts Commission Deputy Director, Miah Michaelsen, presented the FY2016 YTD financials (attached) noting slight variances in the projected and actual totals, further explaining perceived overages as expenses hitting prior to projected. She explained that paying expenses early makes it appear that we are over budget, when in fact we are not. However, due to an Indiana Office of Technology required computer upgrade for the entire agency, the technology and communication line will most likely exceed budget. The upgrade is estimated at \$5000. Ms. Michaelsen further noted the addition of the FY17 column which delineates the \$82,307 Commission approved allocation for the Indiana Masterpiece program grants, which was endorsed prior to the approval of the FY17 budget. After consulting with our State Budget analyst, if there is room in the FY16 budget to expense the Indiana Masterpiece grants in this fiscal year, the agency will, since our goal is to spend all State allocations within that fiscal year. Arts Commission Executive Director, Lewis Ricci, added that the probability of doing this is high because the Capacity Building programs have flexibility as to what year we can expense them in and grants, in comparison, are more rigid. Mr. Ricci also apprised the Commission that the agency is being audited by the State which is a common occurrence every 3 – 4 years. In regards to the Governor's Arts Awards, Mr. Ricci thanked Nancy Stewart and the majority of current and emeritus commissioners who have helped the Commission reach its target goal to cover costs of hosting the Awards and related activities. The Bicentennial committee was still in the process of reaching their pledged support with a sponsor who voiced interest but had not been finalized. In the event that the Bicentennial Commission does not meet their pledged sponsorship, the Commission approved a small amount from the

reserve to cover these costs. Commissioner Libby Chiu questioned if the reserve funds returned to the Commission must be used within that fiscal year. Mr. Ricci responded that they must be used within the fiscal year they are returned in.

- b. Commissioner Appointments and Reappointments.** Mr. Ricci reported that Commissioners Kathy Anderson, Al Rent, Sherry Stark and Nancy Stewart are up for reappointment and the Governor's office has invited all to continue for a 2nd term. All have agreed to continue. Gil Cárdenas will complete his 2nd term on June 30, 2016. Recommendations are being accepted, especially those from Region 2, which Gil will leave open, and region 4 which has not seen Commissioner representation for approximately 7 years. The Governor's office will make the final decisions, but Mr. Ricci stressed that under the current administration Commission recommendations have been favored. Commissioner Kathy Anderson suggested utilizing the regional arts partners in those regions for recommendations, which Mr. Ricci responded that recommendations from the Regional Arts Partner in Lafayette have been submitted.
- c. Policy Issues.**
- i. **Low Number Issue.** Pending further discussion with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, the low number plate issue policy has been deferred.
- d. Personnel Issues.**
- i. **Executive Director Annual Review.** Ms. Stewart noted that after Commissioner and Staff evaluations were received, Mr. Ricci's annual review was submitted. Echoing the sentiment of the evaluation, Ms. Stewart noted that the Commission is fortunate to have Mr. Ricci. Copies of the evaluation are available for anyone to review.
- ii. **Office of the Governor Announcement.** Mr. Ricci noted that the Office of the Governor is currently inventorying the number of State employees in order to end the fiscal year with the same number employed when Gov. Pence first took office. Because the FSSA (Family & Social Services Administration) saw an increase in the need for caseworkers, these distended numbers are being brought down through attrition and retirement. Mr. Ricci assured the Commission that this should not affect our agency. The open Communications & Community Engagement Manager position has been interviewed for in hopes to extend the offer to the best candidate in May or June. Mr. Ricci then announced that Rebecca Hopson, Arts Commission Community Development Manager and Accessibility Coordinator, will be leaving the agency for an employment opportunity with IU. This position has not yet been approved for posting.
- e. PACE Additional Site for Approval.** Arts Commission Community Development Manager and Arts Education Coordinator, Sarah Fronczek, apprised the Commission of PACE programs in their first full year of implementation (Handout attached). She further noted the new program, D is for Dancing, which was approved during the December Commission meeting. Currently in the planning stages, this program will implement fully in the next school year. Ms. Fronczek further submitted for Commission approval the new proposed PACE partnership "Art Colony" between the Brown County Art Guild and Van Buren Elementary School after being recommended by the PACE advisory Committee. Mr. Ricci noted that because the proposal was submitted after the Programs, Grants and Services Committee met, it was recommended by the Education Committee and submitted directly to the Executive Committee for approval. Ms. Anderson questioned how it affected the budget. Mr. Ricci responded that the project has been budgeted for but has not been identified until now, hence, no change in the budget will occur. Ms. Stewart called for approval of the new PACE project, Art Colony. Ruth Ann Cowling motioned to approve. Susan Hardwick seconded the motion.

Kathy Anderson	Yes
Gil Cárdenas	Yes
Libby Chiu	Yes
Ruth Ann Cowling	Yes
Susan Hardwick	Yes
Jeff Kirk	Yes

Jennifer Perry	Yes
Allen Platt	Yes
Sherry Stark	Yes
Yolanda Stemer	Yes
Nancy Stewart	Yes
Trevor Yager	Yes

The new PACE project, Art Colony, was unanimously approved.

4. Executive Director Report.

a. **Staff Update.** Mr. Ricci apprised the Commission that a former intern of the Commission, Bridget Eckert, has joined the Commission part-time to help with the Governor's Arts Awards media and printed materials. Currently with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Ms. Eckert will be working with both offices. As stated earlier, the Community Development Manager and Accessibility Coordinator position will soon be vacant.

b. **Technical Assistant/Capacity Building update.**

i. **Statewide Economic Impact study.** Ms. Michaelson apprised the Commission of progress on the Arts United/ IUPFW study which will give a county by county snapshot of the creative economy. A draft of the data rich study has been received and staff will be working to put together "rotary ready presentations and ways for our partners to take the data out into the field." Mid to late summer the info will be ready to roll out with Commissioners having an elevated view previous to the formal announcement. Mr. Ricci noted that because this is a significant piece of research and will support arguments for the creative sector, we should not waste the opportunity to put this out in the most effective way possible. Discussion followed regarding the appropriate release time and place and the possibility of announcing the study findings in conjunction with other significant economic announcements in the State. Mr. Ricci implored Commissioners to think about their own regions and co-occurrences we might announce this study with.

ii. **Be the Change.** Given that Ms. Hopson is departing the agency and has been the conference lead, the Commission has decided to resolve the personnel issue before going further. Originally slated for fall of 2016 the conference, which is focused on diversity and access for communities and the arts, is now on hold. This will allow the agency to focus on the release of the economic study and navigate the year end monies. With partnerships and lead proposals in place this will be returned to, hopefully, in June.

iii. **Creative Placemaking.** Mr. Ricci touched upon the Lily School of Philanthropy and School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) creative placemaking progress. With Be the Change on hold, the Commission may prioritize the SPEA piece first since IU is the lead on this partnership. Mr. Ricci briefly reminded the Commission that about a year and half ago a group of Commissioner's looked at our capacity building projects, noting the "super opportunity" idea that emerged. Fueled more by the people in the State itself, it is the Commission's priority to articulate this and how we can build advocacy efforts around the execution of this considering that some of advocacy efforts have dissolved or are inactive.

5. **National Partnerships updates.** Mr. Ricci thanked Ms. Anderson for attending Arts Advocacy Day in Washington D.C. in early March. Organized by Americans for the Arts, Mr. Ricci and Ms. Anderson were part of a team of 7 art advocates assembled to meet with Indiana's Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill. Because session was in recess, many Legislative Assistants met with the team. Mr. Ricci commented on the positive and engaged conversations had with even those offices who have been traditionally conservative. Ms. Anderson reported on the positive experience and wealth of information provided by the Americans for the Arts. Ms. Stewart used the opportunity to implore all present to find opportunities to meet with Senators and Representatives locally. Mr. Ricci added on a similar note that a proclamation was offered to the House and Senate to celebrate our 50th anniversary.

6. Committee Reports

- a. **Programs, Grants and Services Committee, Al Rent, Chair.** In Committee Chair Al Rent's absence, Commissioner Allen Platt presented the Programs, Grants and Services Committee items.
- i. **Lay of the Land.** Mr. Platt apprised the Commission of activities related to the Lay of the Land study group which was formed to look into grant allocations for the Commission since 22% of AOS grantees have gone up in budget category. Three meetings have been scheduled for this work group, the first of which was held in February. Ms. Michaelsen continued that the group is made up of representatives of various granting and public funding entities, along with Scott Wylie, director of the Vanderburgh Community Foundation and RAP chair, and Commissioner Micah Smith, to discuss the future of allocations. Ms. Michaelsen further reported that the group focused less on hard numbers and more on philosophy, with a concentration on organizations and their responsibility to community engagement. By June a recommendation from this study group should be brought to the full Commission.
- ii. **Agency Partnerships.** Mr. Ricci noted that our footprint is expanding in State government with other agencies soliciting our expertise. By being involved in the Stellar Communities initiative and the vetting process of communities selected for that program, the Indiana Housing and Economic Development Authority has approached the IAC to partner in developing infrastructural assets relative to housing and artists. Mr. Ricci added that this opportunity is an exciting new direction for the Commission to impact the State outside of our traditional programmatic role. Because the Stellar Communities initiative also includes the Department of Transportation, opportunities to partner with them specifically may arise in the future. Commissioner Libby Chiu requested that information be prepared on these other agencies: who they are, what they fund and how we will work with them. Mr. Ricci concluded that since we are at a great confluence with these opportunities and our strategic planning process, we want to take advantage of these opportunities and be mindful of their willingness to step out with us right now. Specific partnership possibilities will be presented to the full Commission in June for input.
- iii. **New On-Line granting system.** Arts Commission Grants, Research and Information Technology Manager, Adrian Starnes, reported that an upgrade for our online granting system is being researched, noting that current options the Commission is interested in pursuing offer greater ease of use on both the applicant and grant management side. He noted fewer malfunctions and more efficiency in terms of managing and exporting data into reports. Ms. Michaelsen noted that our subscription with our current vendor, Westaf, will end on June 30, 2016 and they have been notified of our intentions.
- iv. **Application update.** Mr. Platt also noted that Regional Initiative Grants are in full swing with currently 15 more APS and 2 more AOS applications submitted than last year.
7. **Regional Arts Partner Update.** Scott Wylie, Regional Arts Partner (RAP) Chair, continued the topic of the new on-line granting system which Mr. Starnes touched on earlier. The online grant management program, Foundant, which the Commission is considering and the Vanderburgh Community Foundation itself uses, concurred on the efficiency and ease of use on both the part of the grantee in the application process and the part of the granter in pulling reports and data from the information gathered in these submissions. Mr. Wylie then reported on preparations the Regional Arts Partners are making for the upcoming grant reviews and paneling processes for current grant submissions. Mr. Wylie further noted that the May RAP meeting will focus on the work of the Lay of the Land study group and allocations. He added to Ms. Michaelsen's earlier comments that the philosophical tone of the first discussions may be relative to the fact that no one participating in the study group has any financial interest in the outcomes of the discussions, including those RAPs who are now designated community foundations. Mr. Wylie concluded that his job as a mediator is to balance the desires and needs of our grantees and RAPs since many of those folks who want to guard the money would like to participate in the study group.
8. **Committee Report and Special Planning Session**
 - a. **Committee on the Future, Sherry Stark, Chair**
 - i. **Cultural Trust.** Rex Van Zant reported that the current Cultural Trust balance totals \$2,899,337.61, (Handout attached) noting that as of January 1, 2016 the Bureau of Motor Vehicles has extended the lifecycle of low issue plates from 5 to 7 years. There is no change on general issue license plates.

- ii. **Governor's Arts Awards Update.** Ms. Stewart noted progress in planning the reception, commissioner dinner and the awards ceremony itself for the upcoming Governor's Arts Awards on April 9th and hoped that all present would be able to join.
 - iii. **Strategic Plan Session.** Led by Ms. Stark, the Commission was apprised of progress made by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) and the content that has emerged from the first meeting which was held in February.
1. **Research/Survey Findings.** Ms. Stark presented to the Commission the same Summary of Surveys (handout attached) which sparked the first conversation of the SPSC to garner Commission input, ideas and discussion. Mr. Starnes highlighted areas of these survey results noting sources of survey input from community leaders, panelists, arts organizations and individual artists. Commissioner response to survey results followed and possible action areas were defined. Ms. Chiu commented that percentages relative to constituent knowledge of the Arts Commission and its programs may be slightly skewed since the surveys were administered to our own constituent base. She suggested going beyond the usual suspects, saying, for example, if we are partnering with other State agencies such as the Department of Housing, we should include their community leaders and constituent base for survey input. Mr. Platt felt that Ms. Chiu's point was well made, adding that input from a broader base of constituents would be valuable on many levels. One of the major themes which came out of the surveys and is listed in the summary, is that of the arts and their impact on education. Ms. Hardwick noted those results which revealed less than half of individual artists surveyed have worked with a K-12 school. She continued, if the premise that survey results come from our own constituent base is correct and it is assumed that our constituent base is knowledgeable about the arts, then it does not follow that the most common reason for artists not engaging in the schools is not knowing how or where to start this engagement. Ms. Hardwick believed that this inconsistency poses an opportunity for the Commission to consider what it is about our programming or messaging that is not reaching artists to give them the tools they need to engage. Commissioner Ruth Ann Cowling, corroborated from the perspective of a retired art educator, she always had to approach artists to come into the classroom, artists never approached her. Ms. Anderson questioned whether data is available or even being collected on what schools are spending on the arts in Indiana and noted that this could be a part of the discussion when forming our strategic plan.
 2. **Outcomes of Planning Committee Meeting 1.** After Commissioner discussion, Mr. Ricci presented to the Commission the main themes that came out of the first meeting of the SPSC (handout attached) and discussed in-depth the four "buckets" that have emerged as possible plan focal points (Access, Impact, Capacity and Diversity) as well as those through lines that encompass all of these points (Leadership & Advocacy, Community & Engagement and Authenticity & Excellence). Ms. Stark prompted the Commission for further discussion regarding the appropriateness of these focal points based on their review of the survey findings. The Commission was in agreeance with the focal points that have emerged from the first meeting of the SPSC.
 3. **Benchmarking.** Ms. Michaelsen presented a document (attached) which collated the most recent strategic plans of peer arts agencies, noting goals, outcomes and recurring themes in each to benchmark against our own plan. Ms. Michaelsen noted, specifically, approaches by each agency to measure outcomes, concluding that there lies opportunities to do more meaningful work in this area. In response to these examples and in thinking about the execution of our Strategic Plan, Ms. Stewart stressed creating a user friendly document. Exemplifying the Nebraska Art Council's plan, she continued that concise language is key. When referencing our plan in the various discussions we have and decisions we make, we can then easily identify if we are furthering the goals of our plan. Ms. Stark agreed with Ms. Stewart adding that if we have to look up particulars of our plan to speak to people then we have missed the mark. Ms. Chiu added that we must also be mindful of putting our focus on and energy into what is doable as opposed to what is a vision. Commissioner Jennifer Perry agreed and added that while benchmarking against these plans we must also caution against mimicking them by adding a new perspective on common themes based on what is unique about Indiana; our rural landscape, government

structure, etc. In thinking about these rural areas, Mr. Wylie added that in looking forward, challenges in fulfilling our mission include these rural areas. One idea is to ensure this by connecting these remote communities with larger communities through transportation, and Mr. Cardenas noted that perhaps this is where our partnership with the Department of Transportation could be useful. Mr. Ricci concurred that partnerships are a possible vehicle by which we accomplish the goals we set forth in our plan. Ms. Stark added that in meeting our goal of access for at risk populations perhaps partnering with the Department of Housing is a possibility. Ms. Anderson reminded the Commission that Lily provided funding to 8 counties that make up a southwest consortia focused on economic development, of which IU will develop a rural study institute which she hoped the arts could be a part of.

4. **Mission, Vision and Values Review.** Ms. Stark asked the Commission to think about where we are headed with this plan and if our Mission, Vision and Values align. Mr. Ricci noted that 5 years prior, the Commission's mission statement was distilled down from what was previously a one page statement. He asked if in that distillation process something was eliminated that seems integral. Discussion followed. Ms. Stewart asked if our mission statement was a part of our enabling legislation, which Mr. Ricci replied that it was written from it. Ms. Chiu felt that the mission was a "top down" mission worded in a way in which the public voice is absent. Mr. Ricci agreed that in order for leadership to be meaningful it must be based on a public voice, but felt that that voice was more prevalent in our value statements. Ms. Stark posited that perhaps this public voice needed to be emphasized at the outset. Mr. Platt cautioned against tinkering with the mission only 5 years after it has been established, which Mr. Ricci agreed that perhaps this is a more immutable statement and our focus should be on the vision and values in aligning them with the formation of our strategic plan. Ms. Stark concluded the discussion by asking if the Commission accepted the mission statement "as is" pending further formation of our strategic plan, with the knowledge that a small group will form to look at our mission, vision and value statements to discuss language and alignment with the formation of our strategic plan. The Commission agreed.
5. **Confluence of Plan Process.** Mr. Ricci noted that the Commission is currently going down 3 paths simultaneously. While we are forming our strategic plan, which is the most comprehensive piece, the Commission is also determining how our financial resources are allocated. The final piece of this is how we measure outcomes. Mr. Ricci noted that because no one, including our agency, is doing exemplary work in the area of outcomes, we have contracted David O'Fallon, Executive Director of the Minnesota Humanities Council, to train staff and commissioners on the articulation of outcomes and measuring whether or not we are producing results in relation to our plan. Training sessions for staff and commissioners will take place in conjunction with the June 2016 meeting of the full Commission. Mr. Ricci feels that if we can align all three the Commission will be in good shape.
6. **Next Steps.** Web cafés are scheduled for May 10 & 11th. There will be a central, facilitated location in Indianapolis where the web cafés will be hosted and broadcast from. The Regional Arts Partners will be hosting satellite groups at their sites. People can either attend these sessions in person at the hosted sites or they can join remotely via computer. The 3 sessions focused on input from artists, community leaders and art organizations will take a closer look at the buckets and through lines that have emerged from the first meeting of the SPSC. Ms. Stark proposed inclusion from unusual suspects and eliciting participation from other constituent bases. Ms. Sharp commented on the format of the web cafes, their structure and how participants respond either at the site or remotely through the web. Ms. Stewart thanked Ms. Stark on her leadership throughout this process.
9. **Old Business/New Business.** No old or new business was discussed.
10. **Closing Comments.** Ms. Stewart extended thanks to Allen Platt for hosting the events and dinner of the June meeting in New Albany and to Ruth Ann Cowling for providing her help in those events.
11. **Adjourn.** Ms. Stewart called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Chiu moved to adjourn. Ms. Cowling seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous consensus. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.